

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 06215 081044Z

16

ACTION SCCT-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SY-05 A-01 OPR-02 USSS-00 AID-05

SAM-01 EA-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 CU-02 /077 W
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O R 080952Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2941

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 6215

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, SP

SUBJ: TERRORISM: ANTI-TERRORIST CAMPAIGN PRODUCES SUCCESSES
AND RESENTMENTS

REF : A) MADRID 6091; B) MADRID 6038

SUMMARY. IN FIRST WEEK FOLLOWING ISSUANCE OF ANTI-TERRORIST DECREE LAW, GOS HAD DETAINED 39 FRAP SUSPECTS, BANNED ONE MAGAZINE FOR 4 MONTHS (IN AN ACTION WITH ANTECEDENTS PRIOR TO THE LAW) AND SEQUESTERED SINGLE ISSUES OF SIX OTHERS, SENTENCED ONE JOURNALIST TO TWO YEAR PRISON TERM, AND ISSUED NEW DECREE GIVING ARMED POLICE QTE EMINENTLY MILITARY ORGANIZATION UNQTE. WE HAVE SOME REPORTS POLICE ARE BEING INDISCRIMINATE IN ROUNDING UP SUSPECTS. ON PRESS FRONT, THE JET BLACK COVER OF THE MAGAZINE CAMBIO 16, RELIEVED ONLY BY THE SINGLE HEADLINE QTE PITY THE PRESS UNQTE, SYMBOLIZED
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PAGE 02 MADRID 06215 081044Z

THE JOURNALISTS' DISCONTENT WITH THE NEW RESTRICTIONS ON THEIR

FREEDOM. END. SUMMARY.

1. FOLLOWING THE ARREST OF THREE ACCUSED KILLERS OF CIVIL GUARD LIEUTENANT GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF SECURITY (DGS) ANNOUNCED SEPTEMBER 4 THAT IT ARRESTED 36 ACCUSED MEMBERS OF FRAP ALLEGEDLY ACCESSORIES TO THE KILLING OR RESPONSIBLE FOR SETTING UP EIGHT "SAFE HOUSES". LOCAL MEDIA ALSO REPORT THAT FRENCH POLICE ARRESTED THIRTY SPANISH BASQUES AUGUST 29, TEN OF WHOM WERE SUBSEQUENTLY ACCUSED BY A COURT OF BORDEAUX OF THE POSSESSION AND THE TRANSPORT OF EXPLOSIVES. IN ADDITION, POLICE KILLED ONE YOUNG BASQUE SEPTEMBER 1 IN SAN SEBASTIAN DURING A SCUFFLE RESULTING FROM A DEMONSTRATION OPPOSING THE DEATH PENALTY FOR TWO BASQUE SENTENCED AUGUST 29 FOR KILLING A POLICEMAN.

2. WE HAVE HEARD SOME STORIES THAT THE CIVIL GUARD (VIEWED AS A PRINCIPAL VILLAIN BY THE OPPOSITION) HAS ENGAGED IN SPORADIC SWEEPS, ROUNDING UP PEOPLE, PARTICULARLY YOUTHS, ADMINISTERING AN OCCASIONAL BEATING, AND RELEASING THE VAST MAJORITY. THE BRIEF ROUND-UP OF 250 YOUTHS IN SEVILLE CAME TO PUBLIC LIGHT AS A RESULT OF A PRESS ITEM FROM THAT CITY, APPARENTLY RELEASED IN A GOOF BY THE LOCAL SECURITY AUTHORITIES.

3. IN AN ACTION WITH ANTECEDENTS PRIOR TO THE ANTI-TERRORISM LAW, THE GOS BANNED THE MAGAZINE TRIUNFO (LEFT INDEPENDENT) FOR FOUR MONTHS, A SEVERE BLOW TO CIRCULATION AND REVENUE. THE GOS HAS SEQUESTERED SINGLE ISSUES OF SIX OTHERS, AND ONE APPEARED WITH AN INDEX LISTING AN ARTICLE BY A WELL-KNOWN MEMBER OF THE OPPOSITION WHICH WAS NOT INCLUDED IN THE ISSUE. (WE KNOW OF ANOTHER CASE WHERE A NEWSPAPER REFRAINED FROM PUBLISHING A SCHEDULED ARTICLE BY AN OPPOSITION FIGURE), THE GOS ALSO ASKED ALL RADIO BROADCASTERS TO SUBMIT TAPES FOR A POSTIORI CHECK OF PROGRAM CONTENT. THE MADRID AND BARCELONA PRESS ASSOCIATIONS PUBLISHED SEPTEMBER 1 EDITORIAL QUESTIONING THE GOS PRESS POLICY AND BEMOANING THE JURIDICAL INSECURITY. THE MEDIA'S SENSITIVITY HAS BEEN FURTHER HEIGHTENED BY THE MILITARY COURT'S CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MADRID 06215 081044Z

SENTENCING TO TWO YEARS IN PRISON OF BARCELONA JOURNALIST HUERTAS CLAVERIA ON CHARGES UNDER A LAW PROHIBITING DEFAMATION OF THE MILITARY. HUERTAS HAD WRITTEN AN ARTICLE REFERRING TO THE ALLEGED MANAGEMENT OF BORDELLOS BY BARCELONA CIVIL WAR WIDOWS. AT THE TRIAL THE ISSUE OF FACT WAS NEVER DISCUSSED, ONLY THE INDIRECT INSULT TO THE MILITARY. IN PRIVATE, JOURNALISTS ARE BITTER, EXPRESS FEAR OF THE THREAT TO THEIR ECONOMIC

LIVELIHOOD, SAY UNCERTAINTY OVER HOW FAR THE LAW'S WRIT WILL RUN LED TO CONSIDERABLE SELF-CENSORSHIP AND TALK IN SOME CASES OF ASKING THE GOS TO RESUME PRIOR CENSORSHIP. CAMBIO 16'S JET BALCK COVER, RELIEVED ONLY BY THE HEADLINE QTE POBRE PRENSA UNQTE SYMBOLIZES THE MEDIA'S DISCONTENT.

4. STIMULATED BY THE CONCERN OF FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS WITH POSSIBLE EFFECT OF THE MEDIA PROVISIONS OF THE ANTI-TERRORIST LAW ON THEM, THE ACTING PUBLIC AFFAIRS COUNSELOR MADE INQUIRIES OF CLOSE CONTACT IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION. HE ASSURED US THE MINISTRY CONTAMPLATED NO MOVES AGAINST FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS.

5. THE SPANISH PUBLIC IS FAR FROM PRO-TERRORIST (ONLY IN THE SPECIAL BASQUE SITUATION IS THERE SOME POPULAR SYMPATHY) AND THE APPLICATION OF THE DEATH PENALTY TO ASSASSINS WILL NOT STARTLE THE SPANISH. TERRORISM, AND THE CONSEQUENT NEED TO COMBAT IT, IS NOT UNKNOWN IN DEMOCRATIC COUNTRIES EITHER. BUT EXCESSES, REAL OR EVEN POTENTIAL, OF THE GOS ANTI-TERRORIST CAMPAIGN FEED THE EXISTING DISSATISFACTION OVER RESTRAINTS ON POLITICAL EVOLUTION IN A WAY THAT IS NOT HEALTHY. EATON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LAW, ARRESTS, TERRORISTS, INFORMATION CONTROL
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MADRID06215
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750309-0831
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750974/aaaacnxz.tel
Line Count: 139
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SCCT
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 MADRID 6091, 75 MADRID 6038
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 APR 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <23 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TERRORISM: ANTI-TERRORIST CAMPAIGN PRODUCES SUCCESSES AND RESENTMENTS
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, SOPN, SP
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006